

Note:

CONSUMER REGISTER lists proposed & final regulations of Federal agencies. To express your opinion, write. Although comments should reach agencies by the deadline, some agencies will consider comments received late. When in doubt about your comments reaching Washington by the deadline, mail anyway.

Glass

June 27 is deadline for Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) request for help in writing a mandatory safety standard for architectural glass (doors, including storm doors; windows; shower & bath enclosures) used in houses, schools & other buildings.

CPSC has decided that the hazards associated with architectural glass present unreasonable risks to consumers. It estimates that glass is responsible for 187,000 injuries a year requiring hospital emergency room treatment. The purpose of this standard would be to reduce the number of injuries. (Although there are some existing architectural glass standards, CPSC does not consider them adequate in preventing injuries.)

The following are types of organizations that CPSC has invited to submit existing standards or offer to develop new ones: standards-writing organizations; trade associations; consumer organizations; professional or technical societies; testing laboratories; university or college departments; wholesale or retail organizations; Federal, state or local government agencies; engineering or research & development establishments; ad hoc associations; any companies or persons who are not members of an established organization & who wish to form a group for this purpose.

Interested organizations may telephone CPSC for more specific information on submitting standards. The number is 202-634-7700.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 28, page 18502. CONSUMER NEWS: July 15, 1972; Sept. 1, 1972. Send inquiries & submit standards to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Pennies

Treasury Dept. is prohibiting the exportation, melting or treating of pennies.

The regulations, which became effective when they were issued on April 18, are to protect the supply of pennies in the U.S.

The bronze coins (95% copper & 5% zinc) have been disappearing even though Treasury makes 35 million pennies a day—70% of the Federal Government's coin production is for pennies alone. Treasury estimates that about 32 billion pennies are being hoarded—partly because there is speculation that copper prices might go up so much that some persons would find it profitable to melt the pennies to sell the copper. However, Treasury says melting them would be expensive. They would have to be melted by refiners, not on a kitchen stove.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 18, page 13881.

NOTE: In a later effort to get pennies back in circulation, Treasury has announced that anyone turning in \$25 worth of pennies to a bank during June will win an Exceptional Public Service certificate if the bank cooperates by sending the consumer's name & address to Bureau of the Mint.

Fireworks

Beginning June 17, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is banning all firecrackers & many other types of fireworks that are considered so hazardous that no adequate cautionary labeling could be written.

CPSC's ban will apply to fireworks shipped across state lines. Fireworks made & sold within a state are subject to state regulations.

Some of the few fireworks which will still be legal are certain fountains, sparklers, rockets, California candles, torches & party poppers. These will have to have warning labels describing the possible danger of using each. They must also comply with design requirements, such as base size, use of coatings on fuses, stability of rocket sticks & handle length.

Specifically banned devices are firecrackers, aerial bombs & fireworks that may be confused with candy—"dragon eggs," "ball-type caps." (Bottle rockets, which would have been banned under the original proposal, are now permitted.)

Farmers, ranchers & growers may still obtain fireworks that are banned to consumers by applying in writing to a qualified government official or agency such as a wildlife management program under Interior Dept.

CPSC will not ban fireworks for public display purposes.

CPSC received 350 comments on its May 1973 proposal including comments from individuals, consumer groups, law enforcement agencies & manufacturers. Some groups—such as National Association for the Prevention of Blindness, National Fire Protection Association, American Academy of Pediatrics & American Lung Association of Hawaii—thought all fireworks except those for public display should be banned. Others thought banning firecrackers would infringe on the religious freedom of many Hawaiians who use firecrackers for religious observances.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 16, page 17435; May 16, 1973, page 13733; Feb. 1, 1972, page 2437. CONSUMER REGISTER: July 1, 1973; CONSUMER NEWS: July 1971.

Care labeling

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is asking for consumer & industry comments on its care labeling rule for clothes. Deadline is July 1.

The rule became effective on July 3, 1972, & requires manufacturers to permanently label clothing & yard goods to tell consumers how to wash, dry clean & otherwise maintain their clothing.

FTC wants comments on how well the rule is working & wants suggestions for improvement.

Some specific questions FTC is asking are:

- Is the information on the labels clear & understandable?
- Are care labels fastened to the articles of clothes as required?

● Are care labels for yard goods being furnished to consumers at the cash register or sales counter?

● Are labels really permanent—do they last as long as the garment to which they are attached?

● Should the rule be expanded to include more products? FTC would like special comment on the desirability of extending the rule to cover some of the following classes of products that are not now required to have care labels: (1) household furnishings such as drapes; (2) items such as ties, handkerchiefs, scarves; (3) leather, fur or suede articles; (4) piece goods remnants; (5) gloves, hats & shoes.

● Should retailers have responsibility for providing labels? (Manufacturers now have all the responsibility.)

● Should manufacturers be required to use standard language on care labels? Should they define what they mean by such words as "hot," "high," "warm," "medium," "bleachable"?

● Should labels be required to state alternate care procedures? If an article is both machine washable & dry-cleanable, should that fact appear on the label?

● Should exemptions be changed? These exemptions are: (1) machine washable & driable items at hot settings without damage to articles; (2) items intended to sell for \$3 or less; (3) fragile, delicate or unusually small products that now permit a hang tag instead of a permanently fastened label.

● Is there too much overcautious labeling in care instructions? Are there many instances of labels telling users to "Dry Clean Only" when garments could be washed just as well?

Details—*Federal Register*: April 2, page 12036; Nov. 22, 1972, page 24815; July 11, 1972, page 13560. CONSUMER NEWS: March 15, 1974. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 15, 1972. Send comments to Assistant Director for Special Statutes, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Door-to-door sales

Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) ruling on door-to-door sales became effective June 7.

Purpose of the regulation is to give consumers a "cooling-off" period to protect them from high pressure tactics of some door-to-door salesmen.

Major provisions of the rule are the following:

● Consumer may cancel his purchase of goods or services bought from a door-to-door salesman if the price is \$25 or more & if he cancels in writing within 3 business days.

● Salesman must give sales contract & oral explanation of consumer's right to cancel & give a completed "Notice of Cancellation" form. Contract & notice must be in the same language that salesman uses in his sales pitch (primarily for the benefit of Spanish-speaking consumers).

● After canceling, consumer is expected to have merchandise available at his residence for salesman to pick up. However, if salesman has not made arrangements for the return of the merchandise within 20 days after cancellation, consumer may keep the goods.

● Salesman must pay all expenses for return of goods.

● Any payment that has been made to salesman must be returned to consumer within 10 business days after receiving cancellation notice.

The rule does not cover purchases (1) made by mail or telephone, (2) made in relation to earlier negotiations away from consumer's home, (3) that are in the categories of insurance or real property.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 7, 1973, page 33766; Oct. 26, 1972, page 22934; Sept. 29, 1970, page 15164. CONSUMER NEWS: March 15, 1972. CONSUMER REGISTER: Nov. 1, 1972.

Vinyl chloride products

June 24 is deadline for comments on Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) proposal to ban any aerosol product for household use that contains vinyl chloride (the chemical that has been linked to liver cancer).

This ban would not include pesticides over which Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has jurisdiction, nor drugs & cosmetics, over which Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has jurisdiction. These agencies have already issued or proposed regulations to control or ban such products.

CPSC knows that vinyl chloride can be hazardous. CPSC does not know what household aerosol products contain vinyl chloride. Therefore it is requiring manufacturers of aerosol products containing this chemical to supply information on production, usage & other data.

This proposal would prevent the possibility of vinyl chloride appearing in aerosol sprays in the future.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 23, page 18115; May 9, page 16511; April 5, page 12342; Jan. 30, page 3874. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1; May 15; July 1, 1973. CONSUMER NEWS: June 1, page 2. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Vinyl chloride safety hearing

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has amended its proposal on health safety standards for vinyl chloride workers by scheduling a hearing on the proposed standard [CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1].

Persons who want to attend the hearing on June 25 in Washington must file a notice with Ms. Joanne Goodsell, Attn: Docket OSH-36, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Labor Dept., Washington, DC 20210, no later than June 17. The notice must state name & address of person to appear, his job or organization & length of time he expects to participate.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 24, page 18303; May 10, page 16896; May 9, page 16511; April 5, page 12342; Jan. 30, page 3874. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1; May 15; July 1, 1973.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$45 a year & may be ordered from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

More warnings!

• **VINYL CHLORIDE**—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) reports that Shield Chemical Co. Inc. has recalled 32 products because they contain vinyl chloride, a chemical that has been linked to liver cancer. FDA considers the products to be hazardous & a potential threat to life. The following is a list of brand names & distributors of the recalled products, which have code numbers less than 3213:

Quik Aid Medicated Vaporizer, 5 oz.—Lee's Niagara Drug Corp.
 Quik Aid Medicated Vaporizer 10 oz.—Lee's Niagara Drug Corp.
 Vapo-Air Sick Room Medicated Vaporizer Spray, 5 oz.—Approved Pharmaceutical Corp.
 Medicated Room Vaporizer, 8 oz.—Union Health Centers Pharmacy
 Rand's Fungi-Spray Athlete's Foot, 5 oz.—Rand's Corning Drug Corp.
 Athlete's Foot Spray—Approved Pharmaceutical Co.
 Femme Spray Powder Deodorant Anti-Perspirant, 6.5 oz.—Rand's Corning Drug Corp.
 Guardsman Medicated Spray-On Powder, 6.5 oz.—The Gansett Co.
 Cala-Hist Calamine Plus Spray for Itching, 5 oz.—Approved Pharmaceutical Corp.
 Rand's Antiperspirant Foot Deodorant Feet Dry, 7 oz.—Rand's Corning Drug Corp.
 CVS Anti-Perspirant Spray Extra Dry, 7 oz.—Consumer Value Stores
 Sweet Life Anti-Perspirant Deodorant Extra Dry, 8 oz.—Sweet Life Products Corp.
 Ann & Hope Super Anti-Perspirant Deodorant Extra Dry, 13 oz.—Ann & Hope
 King's Anti-Perspirant Spray, Extra Dry, 13 oz. & 4 oz.—King's Department Stores
 Staff Anti-Perspirant, 8 oz.—Staff Supermarket Associates Inc.

Ann & Hope Super Anti-Perspirant Spray, Extra Dry, 8 oz.—Ann & Hope
 Merit Anti-Perspirant, 8 oz.—Merit Merchandisers
 Pedi-Care Foot Powder, 7 oz.—Rands Corning Drug Corp.
 Septi-Stat, First Aid Spray, 5 oz.—Soluble Products Corp.
 First Aid Spray, 5 oz.—Approved Pharmaceutical Corp.
 Kings Deodorant Spray, 13 oz.—Kings Department Stores
 Pedi-Care Foot Deodorant, 7 oz.—Rands Corning Drug Corp.
 CVS Deodorant Spray, 7 oz.—Consumer Value Stores
 Bentley Deodorant for Men, 7 oz.—The Gansett Co.
 Kings Deodorant Spray, 4 oz.—Kings Department Stores
 Chek Mate Spray Deodorant, 7 oz.—The Gansett Co.
 Bentley Dry Hair Control, 7 oz.—The Gansett Co.
 Charles Reynolds Holding Hair Set, 14 oz.—Charles Reynolds
 Bentley Professional Hair Spray for Men, 13 oz.—The Gansett Co.
 Charles Reynolds Lustre Hair Spray, 14 oz.—Charles Reynolds
 Salon Wig Lustre, 13 oz.—Jordane Cosmetics Inc.
 Charles Reynolds Human Hair Piece Cleaner, 16 oz.—Charles Reynolds

For your use

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) & Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) are conducting a project to encourage consumers to comment on proposed regulations by Federal agencies. This month & July & August, CONSUMER NEWS will print a form in each issue for readers to use to comment on an item mentioned in CONSUMER REGISTER. FDA will keep a count of the number of forms returned & send the forms to the appropriate agency. The count will be used to determine whether to provide forms on a regular basis sometime after the project ends in August. Agencies receiving the forms will consider the comments in making decisions about proposed regulations.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to CONSUMER REGISTER, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____,

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____.

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(mostly) Free from FDA

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is offering consumers free single copies of 6 publications. Write to Food & Drug Administration, HFI-10, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Consumer Guide—tips on food, drug & cosmetic safety plus wallet card for space for you to write in your doctor's name & any special medical information about yourself, such as allergies.

We Want You To Know About Nutrition Labels on Food—explanation of nutrition labeling.

Acupuncture: Past & Present.

New Regulations on Vitamins A & D.

A Primer on Medicines—guide to use, misuse & excessive use of medicines.

We Want You To Know About Microwave Oven Radiation.

FDA's magazine, *FDA Consumer*, is not free. Subscription rate is \$5.30 a year for 10 issues. *FDA Consumer* reports on various food, drug & cosmetic issues. A recent issue included articles about vitamins, drug abuse, recall of defective products & safe food storage. Order the magazine from **Superintendent of Documents**, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (check or money order payable to Supt. of Documents).

Help develop product safety standards

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is inviting consumers to aid in developing safety standards for consumer products. CPSC plans to draw up mandatory standards for thousands of products, including power lawn mowers, architectural glass, extension cords, swimming pool slides & matches. The invitation is open to groups as well as to individual consumers.

To volunteer to help with the program, write to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207. Include a summary of your background, experience & areas of special interest. Your name will be placed on a list from which CPSC will select "offerors" (organizations or individuals that will prepare standards) and "interested parties" (individuals who want to participate in safety standards development). In some cases, CPSC will contribute to the cost of volunteers' participation, if such financial help is requested.

In addition to maintaining a list of volunteers, CPSC will announce in *Federal Register* when it is seeking offerors, if it decides a safety standard is needed to protect consumers from possible injury from a particular product [see "Glass" in this issue of **CONSUMER REGISTER**].

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